



OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

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**STATE OES AWARDS \$500,000 IN CRIME GRANTS TO MONTEREY AND SAN BENITO
COUNTIES FOR RURAL CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

SACRAMENTO – The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) today announced the awarding of a combined \$500,000 in grants to Monterey and San Benito counties to aid in their efforts to combat crimes affecting commercial farmers, ranchers and other agricultural-based businesses.

The awards represent the bulk of \$800,000 in combined funds approved in June by Governor Schwarzenegger for five counties along California's central coast as part of the Central Coast Rural Crime Prevention Program. The grants were formerly awarded this week by OES and State Senator Jeff Denham during a ceremony in both counties,

"Crimes affecting the commercial production and distribution of produce and livestock, as well as theft of farm equipment and other products affect not only the farmer but the California consumer as well," said OES Director Henry Renteria. "The funds awarded to Monterey and San Benito counties will help district attorneys, sheriffs, agricultural commissioners and other stakeholders work together to fight crime in our precious agricultural regions."

Under current law, participants in the Central Coast Rural Crime Prevention Program, which is modeled after the Central Valley Rural Crime Prevention Program, must form a task force composed of the county's district attorney, sheriff, agricultural commissioner and other interested groups and associations and operate under a joint powers agreement.

The Central Coast Rural Crime Prevention Program and the Central Valley Rural Crime Prevention Program have been hailed by law enforcement officials across the nation as national models for addressing agricultural crime. The programs provide funds to arrest, prosecute and convict individuals who commit agricultural crimes. It also allows local law enforcement agencies and district attorneys' offices to develop and expand county and regional teams to impact agricultural crime within the entire agricultural region.

At a minimum, each program is required to include law enforcement and prosecutorial elements, with support from the county agricultural commissioner's office encouraged.

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